**Shipping Instructions for Samples Collected From Individuals Potentially Exposed to Chemical Terrorism Agents**

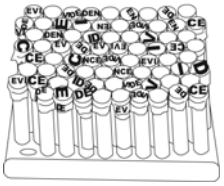
**Specimens required for analysis (collect from each person):**

**Urine**—25 mL (use a screw-capped plastic container). **Freeze as soon as possible;** if possible, attempt to ship on dry ice. If dry ice is not available, samples can be shipped with freezer packs.
**Whole blood**—two 5 or 7 mL purple-top (EDTA) tubes vacuum-fill only (**unopened**);
**Whole blood**—one 5 or 7 mL gray-top or one 5 or 7 mL green-top tube vacuum-fill only (**unopened**), plus an empty tube for each lot number used to check as a blank; and
**Whole blood**—two 10 mL **no anticoagulant** red-top tubes (not SST or gel tubes) please **do not** separate serum from cells prior to sending to CDC. Tubes are often distributed in Styrofoam racks/holders. If available, use such Styrofoam racks for shipping purposes.

**After collection:**

Label specimens with labels generated by your facility. The label should include at least the following information (specimen identification number, collector's initials, and date/time of collection). This information will be used by your facility to relate results obtained from the Rapid Toxic Screen to the people from whom samples were collected. **Results will be reported back referenced to your specimen identification numbers, therefore a list of names with corresponding sample identification numbers must be maintained at the collection site, to allow analytical results to be reported to the actual patients.**

Wrap each sample top with tamper-proof, water-proof forensic evidence tape. Be careful not to cover the sample labels.

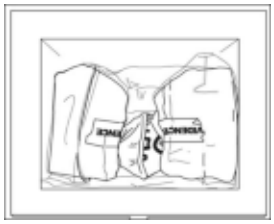


Place collected and labeled blood samples (tops wrapped with evidence tape) back into the styrofoam rack (to provide stability during shipment).

When packaging samples, please wrap the tubes with absorbent material (i.e., blue hospital pads or newspaper) and secure with tape. Place the packaged tubes in a large zip-lock bag.

Package frozen urine cups individually. Wrap each cup with absorbent material, and place in a zip-lock bag.

**When packaging samples for shipment:**



Obtain a Styrofoam insulated shipping container (should be available from your transfusion service or send-out department).

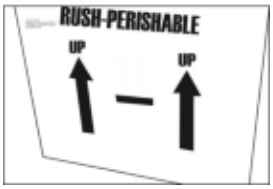
Place absorbent material (sufficient to absorb the contents of all tubes if broken during transport) in the bottom of the box. Next, insert a layer of frozen cold packs, then insert the wrapped tubes in the plastic bags. (Cold packs can be inserted between the packages to maintain temperature.) Absorbent materials can also be placed between packages to protect them. On top of each package, place another layer of frozen cold packs.

Package urine cups similarly, but without cold packs between the samples. **Urine samples can be shipped on dry ice.** Absorbent material between the cups will provide adequate protection. A larger amount of absorbent material is needed for shipping the urine specimens.

Include a shipping list (with sample identification numbers) in a plastic zip-lock bag on top of the absorbent material inside the top of the box. Include the name and telephone number of a local contact person.

**Please do not ship urine cups and blood tubes in the same box.**

**When preparing the box(es) for shipment:**




Two up-arrows must be located on opposite sides of the box.

Place a sticker on each side of the box that states:

**Non-Infectious**
**Diagnostic Specimens**
**Packed in Compliance with IATA**
**Packing Instructions 650**

Secure box tops and bottoms with filamentous shipping/strapping tape.

1. Contact the Missouri State Public Health Laboratory for approval **prior** to shipment.
    a. During normal business hours: Emergency Response and Outreach Team at 573-522-1444
    b. After normal business hours: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Situation Room, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week: 800-392-0272

2. Please ship to:
    Missouri State Public Health Laboratory
    Chemistry Unit
    Chemical Terrorism Response Program
    307 West McCarty Street
    Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

If you have any questions or problems with sample packaging or shipment, please call:

A. Mike Massman, Chemical Terrorism Coordinator, at 573-526-9549
B. Chemistry Unit at 573-751-0633